

Remarks

Applicant thanks Examiner Richardson for the indication of allowable subject matter. In the office action dated June 14, 2004 the Examiner rejected claims 1, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,430,820 to Marsh, and claims 1, 10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,934,002 to Blanchet in view of Marsh. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 8-10, 17 and 18, and cancels claims 5, 14, 19 and 20. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 10 can be found, for example, in now canceled claims 5 and 14, respectively. Claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 have been amended for consistency. As such, no new matter has been added.

With respect to the Examiner's rejections, the Examiner is invited to consider the following remarks.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1, 10 and 19, the independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to provide what is believed to be the allowable subject matter of now canceled dependent claims 5 and 14, respectively. Independent claim 19 has been canceled.

Regarding claims which depend from the independent claims, Applicant contends that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that the independent claims are patentable. Moreover, Applicant contends these claims recite further limitations, in addition to the limitations of the independent claims, which render these claims additionally patentable.

Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicant respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested. No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this paper.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss prompt resolution of any remaining issues necessary to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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